

CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

WE CLAIM:

1. A gaming machine push-button actuatable electrical switch comprising:
a button body for mounting to a support structure of a gaming machine, said button body configured to accept a lamp and provide power to an input of said lamp;
a switch connected to said button body;
an push-button mounted for movement relative to said button body; and
an actuator, said actuator configured to actuate said switch in response to the actuation of said push-button;
said lamp comprising a light emitting element and a polarity matching module, said light emitting element configured to illuminate at least a portion of said switch when power is provided thereto, said polarity matching module providing power to said light emitting element with a fixed polarity regardless of a polarity of power provided to said input of said lamp.
2. The gaming machine push-button actuatable electrical switch in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said polarity matching module comprises a diode bridge.
3. The gaming machine push-button actuatable electrical switch in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said input of said lamp comprises a pair of electrical leads leading to said diode bridge.

4. The gaming machine push-button actuatable electrical switch in accordance with Claim 3 wherein a resistor is positioned along one of said leads.

5. The gaming machine push-button actuatable electrical switch in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said lamp includes a circuit board and diodes comprising said diode bridge are associated with said circuit board.

6. The gaming machine push-button actuatable electrical switch in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said circuit board is generally planar and has a first side and a second side and said diodes are located at said first side.

7. The gaming machine push-button actuatable switch in accordance with Claim 6 wherein a resistor is located on a lead leading to said diode bridge at said second side of said circuit board.

8. The gaming machine push-button actuatable switch in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said circuit board is located in a housing.

9. The gaming machine push-button actuatable switch in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said light emitting element comprises a light emitting diode.

10. The gaming machine push-button actuatable switch in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said light emitting element comprises a light emitting diode, said polarity matching module comprises a diode bridge, said lamp input comprises a pair of leads leading to said diode bridge, said light emitting element is connected to the output of said bridge, diodes comprising said diode bridge are associated with a circuit board and said light emitting element is located under a cover.

11. The gaming machine push-button actuatable switch in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said lamp includes a housing in which said circuit board is located, at least a portion of said leads extending from said housing.

12. The gaming machine push-button actuatable switch in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said lamp includes a base, said light emitting diode mounted to a first side of said base and said circuit board mounted to a second side of said base.

13. A method of changing a lamp of a gaming machine push-button actuatable switch comprising:

removing a lens cap of a push-button of said switch;
removing an existing lamp from a socket defined by a body of said switch;
inserting a new lamp into said socket defined by said body of said switch, said new lamp comprising a polarity matching module having an output connected to a light emitting diode and a pair of inputs leading to said polarity matching module, said inserting including placing said inputs

of said lamp into contact with electrical contacts of said switch without regard to the polarity of the power applied to said contacts of said switch.

14. The method in accordance with Claim 13 including the step of reconnecting said lens cap after said new lamp is inserted.

15. The method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said lamp includes a housing having a first end and a second end, said inputs comprise a pair of leads, at least a portion of said leads extending from said housing at said second end, said second end of said housing configured to fit within said socket in either a first position or a second position in which said leads will contact said contacts.